



DEPARTMENT OF
FINANCE
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, GOVERNOR
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April 16, 2009

Mr. Steve Dunivent
Deputy County Executive Officer
Government and Public Services
County of Orange
10 Civic Center Plaza
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd., 3rd Floor
Santa Ana, CA 92701-4062

Mr. Clifford Ham
Principal Architect
Office of Court Construction and Management
Judicial Council of California
Administrative Office of the Courts
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

Dear Mr. Dunivent and Mr. Ham:

Decision on the Court Facilities Dispute Resolution Committee Recommendation from the October 28, 2008, meeting

The Court Facilities Dispute Resolution Committee (Committee) formally met on September 22, 2008, to hear the Orange County initiated dispute regarding the Seismic Safety Rating for five separate trial court facilities; (1) Central Justice Center, (2) Lamoreaux Justice Center, (3) North Justice Center, (4) West Justice Center, and (5) Harbor Justice Center. Per Government Code Section 70303, the Committee submitted its recommendations to me for these facilities but withheld recommendation on the Lamoreaux Justice Center, pending further information.

On October 28, 2008, the Committee met again to hear the Orange County initiated dispute regarding the Lamoreaux Justice Center. Per Government Code Section 70303, the Committee submitted its recommendations to me.

Disputes Regarding the Seismic Safety Rating

Government Code Section 70328 provides that the seismic safety rating of a facility may be appealed by the county to the Committee. In such a dispute, the state has the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence the unacceptable seismic safety rating. Government Code Section 70327 provides that the state shall provide for a licensed structural engineer to inspect and evaluate each court facility for seismic safety if the building was constructed under a building code prior to the 1988 Uniform Building Code and the facility has not been upgraded since 1988 for seismic safety. The law does not specify what determines an adequate seismic safety upgrade.

Mr. Steve Dunivent
Mr. Clifford Ham
Page 2
April 16, 2009

The Committee's recommendation is detailed below:

Lamoreaux Justice Center: Deny the appeal. The Committee members voted unanimously to deny the County's appeal. The County did not present sufficient evidence to dispute the seismic risk rating, as determined by the structural engineer that was retained by the AOC.

I concur with the recommendation of the Committee as summarized above.

If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to call Nathan Brady at (916) 445-9694.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael C. Genest", with a stylized flourish at the end.

MICHAEL C. GENEST
Director

cc: Court Facilities Dispute Resolution Committee Interested Parties List